

9:00 AM

OCTOBER 22, 2021

Originally scheduled as an in-person and online meeting, this meeting was held only online through Microsoft Teams.

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Members:

Jon Morrison, Chair	John Wetmore
Antoine RJ Wright	Kristi Pier
Andrew Mengel	Marquette Rogers
Chelsea Hayman	Marshall Edwards
Heather Ersts	Patti Stevens
Eli Glazier	Pierre Stewart
Jim Titus	

Absent Members:

Gabriel Rose	Lt. Laura Beck
Jeff Hirsch	Marian Vessels
Jim Smith	Sarah Sularz
Karen Schonfeld	Steve Green

Non-Members:

Brigitte Carty	Eric Brenner	Owen Bailey
Carol Kachadoorian	Greg Hinchliffe	Patrick McMahon
Champe Burnley	Ines Nizeye	Shayne Boucher
Chris Reno	Jim Brown	Steph Piperno
Daniel Paschall	Jon Korin	Roy Gothie
David Willauer	John Bolecek	Will White
Dianne Klair	Kandese Holford	

Staff:

Marty Baker	Nate Evans	Nick Johnson
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I. Welcome & Introductions (10 min)

Jon Morrison, Chair opened the meeting with introductions of committee members and MDOT support staff.

II. Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes (5 min)

A revised agenda was presented with the rail and trail panel discussion moved to the third agenda item. There were no objections to the modified agenda.

Jim Titus moved to approve the minutes of the July 2021 MBPAC meeting. Antoine RJ Wright seconded the motion. The July 23, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by the committee.



III. Panel Discussion: Rail Trail Possibilities in Maryland (60 minutes)

The panel presentations and discussion included national, regional and state rail trail examples followed by a panel discussion.

Jim Brown, TrailNation Director at the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, provided a history of the rail trail movement and how properties can be converted from railroad to trail use.

John Bolecek, Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner at the Virginia Department of Transportation shared how the Eastern Shore Rail Trail feasibility study was conducted and how it can be developed.

Nate Evans, Active Transportation Planner at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), provided a history of rail trails in Maryland, the status of the state rail plan, current and future departmental efforts to develop rail trail and rail with trails.

Will White, City of Salisbury Department of Infrastructure and Development, shared his experience with the development of the city's rail trail project and active railroad coordination.

Presentations from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Virginia and Maryland Departments of Transportation are available on the MBPAC website. Questions and comments from the chat are included in the appendix.

IV. Old Business & Public Comment (20 minutes)

Jon Korin shared that MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) is undergoing a study to evaluate the efficiency of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Jim Titus inquired if the committee would receive responses to comments submitted on the I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Project. Jim also encouraged the committee to be pro-active in working with SHA as Maryland updates the Maryland Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MDMUTCD) based on the new federal version.

Jon Korin shared that as of October 1, the Vulnerable Roadway User (VRU) law went into effect. Offenders are required to appear in court when involved in a crash with a pedestrian, bicyclist or other vulnerable road user.

Eric Brenner shared that the September 11th National Memorial Trail was officially recognized and has been incorporated into the National Park Service system. This move allows more federal funding for the trail, which saw a marked increase in traffic for the 20th anniversary of the attacks. Eric noted that the main barrier along the trail's route is the Susquehanna River crossing, which President Biden acknowledged during the signing ceremony. With the issue



having the president's attention, several committee members and attendees agreed that a renewed effort to revisit a shared-use path option for the crossing.

V. MBPAC Subcommittee Reports (10 minutes)

Marty Baker shared that the **Pedestrian Subcommittee** will host their next meeting on December 9th. The committee has been focused on Walktober events, including the final Walkinar scheduled for October 28. Each 2021 webinar averaged 500 participants.

Chelsea Hayman shared that the **Disability Subcommittee** held its final discussion on floating bus stop design. A synopsis of the discussion and recommendations are being drafted by the Maryland Department of Disabilities.

VI. Partner Agency Updates (20 min)

Heather Ersts (Department of Commerce) shared that the State and National Park Service are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the C&O Canal with promotional videos of user experiences and promoting the interconnectivity of the state's land and water trails.

Kristi Pier (Maryland Department of Health) shared the launch of a team-based walking academy, which will be available to community partners and elected officials to create more walkable communities.

Andrew Mengel (Department of Natural Resources) announced the Department in partnership with Baltimore City won an Outdoor Legacy grant to repair and expand trails around Middle Branch Park. Counties are submitting recreation and land preservation plans to DNR and the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) for review, which helps determine future Program Open Space funding. Andrew clarified for Jon Korin that e-bike policies are established at the individual park unit. The Western Maryland Railroad Trail is one park unit which does allow e-bikes.

Sarah Lipkin Sularz (Maryland Department of Planning) forwarded departmental activities to Nate Evans to share with the committee, stating MDP released the [Snapshot Maryland Transportation Planning Dashboard](#) to assist planners, transportation professionals and the public with planning-related information at the local level. MDP encourages local jurisdictions to address pedestrian bicycle issues, policies and strategies in local comprehensive plan updates. MDP encourages the Maryland Transportation Authority to explore pedestrian bicycle access in the future Tier 2 Bay Crossing NEPA study and encouraged MDOT SHA to consider pedestrian bicycle elements in the I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Project, especially in communities that need these types of elements in order to access any community centers and commercial areas.

Gabriel Rose (Maryland State Department of Education) forwarded departmental activities to Nate Evans stating MSDE celebrated School Bus Safety Week earlier in October and looks forward to celebrating Bike to School Day in the spring.

Eli Glazier (Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning Commission) shared that Montgomery County's Pedestrian Master Plan data collection is wrapping up with the Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC) effort substantially completed. Connectivity analysis using PLOC will look at access to schools, parks, and other walkable destinations. The existing conditions report for the plan will be finalized in April 2022, and then draft recommendation development will begin.



Patrick McMahon (MDOT Maryland Transit Administration) shared that the North Avenue Rising project progresses and the shared bus and bike lanes are experiencing higher bicycle traffic volumes. Additional improvements are coming with the project along 20th Street and Baker Avenue. MDOT MTA received an FY22 Bikeways award to study a shared-use path between the Monocacy MARC station and the Monocacy Battlefield Park Visitor Center.

Kandese Holford (MDOT SHA) shared that the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) is on-going with a pending round of virtual public meetings. The Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Programs awarded \$13 million to projects across the state.

Nate Evans and Marty Baker (MDOT Secretary's Office) shared that MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program awarded \$3.38 million to 16 projects across the state. Walktober 2021 has been successful with Walk Maryland Day on October 6 and three complete Walkinar with the fourth and final Walkinar to be held Thursday, October 28.

Nate Evans also shared that the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Project, now called OpLanes, is available on [the state website](#): The SDEIS includes a detailed list of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to be constructed with the project in addition to three options for the shared-use path crossing of the Potomac River at the American Legion Bridge. [Public comments](#) are being accepted through November 15, 2021 with two virtual public meetings to be held on November 1, 2021.

VII. Closing Reminders and Adjournment (10 min)

The next MBPAC meeting will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022.

Jon Morrison reminded committee members to recommend future meeting discussion topics of interest.

Jim Titus motioned to adjourn the meeting. Antoine RJ Wright seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.



Appendix A – Chat Log from the October 22, 2021 MBPAC Meeting

[10/22 9:19 AM] Jon Korin

3 active Rail-Trail projects in Anne Arundel: WB&A Bridge over Patuxent River, South Shore Trail (Annapolis to Odenton) and BWI to Baltimore connector (near light rail). Plus many other trail projects
(2 liked)

[10/22 9:21 AM] Jon Korin

And connecting the CTN and Balt.Greenway is the Anne Arundel Trail Network.

www.annearundeltrailnetwork.org

Anne Arundel Trail Network

Visit the post for more.

www.annearundeltrailnetwork.org

[10/22 9:28 AM] Jon Korin

JimBrown:Can you mention use of power line right of ways?

[10/22 9:28 AM] jim (Guest)

When a corridor is railbanked, how does it work if instead of bringing back the use of heavy rail, a locality wants to use the corridor for light rail?

[10/22 9:28 AM] jim (Guest)

Different railroad and different use, but still rail. Does that count?

[10/22 9:32 AM] Jim Brown

Jon, and Jim: just saw these questions, happy address them

[10/22 9:33 AM] Morrison, Jon (Asbury)

Is there a white paper/guidance on the best way to lay the groundwork and timeline to expect when approaching a railway for rail/trail conversion?

[10/22 9:33 AM] Antoine RJ Wright (Guest)

@john, see <https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/>

[10/22 9:35 AM] Morrison, Jon (Asbury)

thanks Antoine

[10/22 9:39 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

what is smart scale? Fed or state \$

[10/22 9:40 AM] Jon Korin

VA Program <https://smartscale.org/>

(1 liked)



[10/22 9:41 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

Nate - Has MDOT done studies of multi-jurisdictional rail trail projects like the ones John Described from VDOT?

[10/22 9:42 AM] Kandese Holford

Could I have a copy of the agenda, please? The one attached to my invite looks different

[10/22 9:43 AM] Glazier, Eli

I'm going to have to drop off unexpectedly, but the update from Montgomery County is that the Pedestrian Master Plan data collection is wrapping up. We have substantially completed the Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC) effort, and are doing some pretty interesting connectivity work using PLCO to look at access to schools, parks, and other walkable destinations. We anticipate the existing conditions report for the plan will be finalized in April 2022, and then draft recommendation development will begin!

[10/22 9:43 AM] Jon Korin

Patti, here is a good example sponsored by BMC (that Nate worked on):

<https://www.baltometro.org/transportation/plans/patapsco-regional-greenway>

[10/22 9:43 AM] Morrison, Jon (Asbury)

WB&A

[10/22 9:43 AM] Boucher, Shayne E.

Western Maryland Rail Trail

[10/22 9:43 AM] Jon Korin

B&A Trail

(1 liked)

[10/22 9:44 AM] Jim Brown

i got to see it in Somerset, very nice!

[10/22 9:44 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

love all those + the Ma and Pa!

[10/22 9:44 AM] Marty Baker

NCR aka Torrey Brown

[10/22 9:44 AM] Owen Bailey

Easton Rail Trail

[10/22 9:44 AM] Jim Brown

NCR



[10/22 9:44 AM] Chelsea Hayman (Guest)
NCR

[10/22 9:44 AM] steve (Guest)
CCT is closest and most frequently one I use but last week rode the NCR where it turns into York Heritage in PA for first time. Nice ride!
(1 liked)

[10/22 9:44 AM] Glazier, Eli
Anyone wanting more info on our efforts in Montgomery County can send me an email.
Eli.glazier@montgomeryplanning.org

[10/22 9:46 AM] jim (Guest)
Anacostia trails. WBA is my local trail but it really needs to be connected, maybe then there will be more destinations.
(1 liked)

[10/22 9:48 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Trail: <https://www.traillink.com/trail/lower-susquehanna-heritage-greenway-trail/>
(1 liked)

[10/22 9:51 AM] Heather Ersts
Frederick Douglass Rail Trail goes right past new FD Park on the Tuckahoe.

[10/22 9:52 AM] Marty Baker
For today's meeting agenda, see:
https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MBPAC_Draft_Agenda_10_22_2021.pdf

[10/22 9:54 AM] Boucher, Shayne E.
Map of F&P rail with trail design [F and P Line RR Trail \(frederickcountymd.gov\)](https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/transportation/f-and-p-rail-trail)

[10/22 9:54 AM] Boucher, Shayne E.
[Frederick-and-Pennsylvania-Line-Railroad-Trail-Project-Drawings \(frederickcountymd.gov\)](https://frederickcountymd.gov)

[10/22 9:55 AM] jim (Guest)
The reduction in trespassing is counterintuitive. I can see how the presence of people might help deter really bad actors, but if there is no fence along the trail then it would tend to cause more people to be on the tracks. Can you elaborate?

[10/22 9:55 AM] Jim Brown
National Park Service has also expressed interest in the Frederick Douglass Trail



(1 liked)

[10/22 9:58 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

WHen there is proposed abandonment is the state or local jurisdiction buying the rail line or is ownership transferred?

[10/22 9:58 AM] Greg Hinchliffe (Guest)

Often, people walk along the tracks because it is the easiest place to walk through the forest, swamp, etc. This led to a fatal accident on the Baltimore Light Rail line years ago. A parallel trail provides a safe passage without walking/biking on the tracks.

[10/22 9:58 AM] Jon Korin

For MD SHA: Safe Crossing of state roads for these trails is critical. Crossing Rt 3 near Rt 175 for South Shore Trail is a good example. Trail bridge is ideal but extremely expensive. What can be done near term to improve safety and comfort?

[10/22 10:00 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

+1 to Jon's comment re: improving safety at major intersections for vulnerable users and +1 to Eric's comment about re-looking at Amtrak crossing of Susquehanna for a study on a separate span with funds from the train project; MUCH more federal support with Amtrak Biden in office in addition to support for 9/11 Trail that was federally designated with Rep Harris (R) supporting the trail on the Cecil County side

(1 liked)

[10/22 10:01 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

there was supposedly a "2017 Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Hazard Analysis and Security Risk Assessment" referenced in the public engagement around the Susquehanna crossing , but I haven't seen anything else about the document anywhere

[10/22 10:01 AM] Antoine RJ Wright (Guest)

Love the discussion here; can these comments be added to the minutes/records?

[10/22 10:02 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

what's the potential of the Ma and Pa Trail from Harford to Baltimore County

[10/22 10:02 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

?

[10/22 10:07 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)

Thank you, Eric!!

[10/22 10:07 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

Now is the time!

(1 liked)



[10/22 10:07 AM] Heather Ersts
Eric, Congrats on the 9-11 Trail!!
(2 liked)

[10/22 10:08 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)
And yes, Congratulations!

[10/22 10:22 AM] Morrison, Jon (Asbury)
Lets salvage the Nice Bridge (existing span)

[10/22 10:22 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)
We were awarded a \$50k Bikeways grant in 2012 but the project wasn't completed. I believe it was related to Hatem Bridge renovations and the addition of bike access.

[10/22 10:23 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)
Anyone interested in attending the MD/DC East Coast Greenway Progress webinar on Nov 10th at 11am -- please email me at daniel@greenway.org

[10/22 10:24 AM] Dianne Klair (Guest)
I like you, Patti! Thanks for raising these questions. Dianne, Havre de Grace

[10/22 10:24 AM] Chris Reno (Guest)
Good point about the MARC trains, but the stations are Perryville and Aberdeen. That cuts out a significant portion of the ECG route. A backtrack along US 40 would be necessary.

[10/22 10:24 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)
I've been digging through comments from the FONSI in 2017 too:
<http://susrailbridgetest.amtrak.com/content/dam/susrailbridge/pdfs/fonsi-2017/Appendix A Response to Comments FINAL.pdf>

[10/22 10:25 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)
Thank you, Marty!

[10/22 10:25 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)
"Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Hazard Analysis and Security Risk Assessment"

[10/22 10:26 AM] eric brenner (Guest)
Patti: Good point, seems like a nice time for an update, doesn't have to be a huge amt. of time/work. Even just rehashing and combining past studies and documents.

[10/22 10:26 AM] Dianne Klair (Guest)
To my understanding, the FONSI does not preclude a third span crossing.



[10/22 10:27 AM] Jon Korin

I suggest MBPAC send a letter to MDOT recommending a policy to adopt ROUTINE Bike/Ped ACCOMODAATION on major crossings (water, interstates, rail)

[10/22 10:29 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

I support such a letter and a recommendation to include Rail TRail in the State Rail Plan

[10/22 10:30 AM] Heather Ersts

Great information and conversation!

[10/22 10:32 AM] Jim Brown

Much more information on railbanking and how to sign up for corridor alerts here:

<https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/acquisition/railbanking/>

Railbanking | Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Understand the

www.railstotrails.org

[10/22 10:33 AM] Jim Brown

and Rail-with-Trail here: <https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/basics/rail-with-trail/>

Rail-with-Trail | Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Read about rails-with-trails, their benefits and concerns that arise when considering a rail-with-trail project.

www.railstotrails.org

[10/22 10:33 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)

Thanks Jim! Do you have links to the MD maps with the rail lines and the trails from your presentation?

(1 liked)

[10/22 10:34 AM] Morrison, Jon (Asbury)

TrailLink: Trail Maps & Guide for Biking, Hiking & Running Trails | TrailLink

(1 liked)

[10/22 10:35 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

I concur with Jim's suggestion. I had previously asked if MBPAC could provide comments on the MUTCD..

[10/22 10:38 AM] Jim Brown

Daniel, Nate has my presentation which has those maps of the active and inactive rail lines + trails. He can distribute to this list.

[10/22 10:39 AM] Daniel Paschall, ECGA (Guest)



Thank you!

[10/22 10:43 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)

Yes, we have Star-Spangled, Washington-Rochambeau, and, as you mentioned, Captain John Smith Chesapeake running through Harford and Cecil Counties. Excited to have the 9/11 officially designated!

(1 liked)

[10/22 10:44 AM] Chris Reno (Guest)

I had a chance encounter with two cyclists one morning that stayed in Elkton overnight and planned their arrival in Perryville to match the bus across the Hatem bridge. Not all are avoiding, but it definitely is still a challenge.

[10/22 10:45 AM] Heather Ersts

National Trails in Maryland:

- Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail

(2 liked)

[10/22 10:49 AM] Jon Korin

A milestone on Critical Crossings: Invitation for construction bid is now open for the WB&A hiker/biker bridge over the Patuxent River connecting Anne Arundel and PG Counties. Hope to see shovels in the ground and water next year!

[10/22 10:49 AM] Dianne Klair (Guest)

The Walktober Walkinars are excellent!

[10/22 10:49 AM] eric brenner (Guest)

to Chris Reno's point, the more typical issue with the long distance bikers who I deal with using the ECG/9-11 route over the Hatem bridge involves coordinating the crossings...particularly if they can arrange for a vehicle to protect them (from the back) when they cross. But also w/timing of MARC trains.

[10/22 10:52 AM] Heather Ersts

Blue Ridge Outdoors video [Rain or Shine: Bike Packing the C&O Canal Trail - YouTube](#)

[10/22 10:54 AM] Jim Brown

Heather, I can connect you with our communication team if you'd like to talk about the marketing video with them

[10/22 10:55 AM] Heather Ersts



Definitely Jim! heather.ersts@maryland.gov

[10/22 10:56 AM] Kristi Pier

Maryland Virtual Walkability Academy overview presentation,

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Documents/WVA%20Info%20Session%20v3.pdf>

[10/22 10:58 AM] Kristi Pier

https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Pages/ccdpc_home.aspx

Pages - Chronic Disease

An official website of the State of Maryland.

health.maryland.gov

[10/22 11:01 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

could we have the new Director of the Office of Outdoor recreation as a future speaker, consider how we might work together?

(1 liked)

[10/22 11:04 AM] Nate Evans

<https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6281df9033f54f12a1a14ee59a5f855a>

Story Map Series

This story map was created with the Story Map Series application in ArcGIS Online.

maryland.maps.arcgis.com

[10/22 11:11 AM] Nate Evans

[Your Participation » Upcoming Events » Op Lanes Maryland \(oplansmd.com\)](http://oplansmd.com)

[10/22 11:14 AM] Patti Stevens (Guest)

thank you Nate and Jon for a great meeting!!

[10/22 11:14 AM] Brigitte Carty -LSHG- (Guest)

Thanks, everyone, for a great meeting!